

translation

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP/003/007899

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

10/518314

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference K 1168 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/007899	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 July 2003 (18.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 August 2002 (06.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65G 1/137		
Applicant KNAPP LOGISTIK AUTOMATION GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02 March 2004 (02.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 28 April 2004 (28.04.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/007899

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-12 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____ 1-6 _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1-4 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, Nos. _____ 7-9 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ 03/07899

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

A dispensing system according to the preamble of claim 1 is known, for example, from document US-A-5 832 693, which discloses a dispensing system having a shelf for commonly used ampoules to the right of the vertical central conveyor belt 20, 21 of the central belt dispensing device U, less often used ampoules being dispensed manually in trays T to the right of the vertical central conveyor belt and sent directly to a distribution station. Therefore, economic factors are also considered as a criterion for the suitability of an article to be stored on the central conveyor belt. The manual dispensing area is arranged physically downstream from the central conveyor belt dispensing device.

The claimed invention proceeds from the point at which the known physical separation of the dispensing areas, i.e. separating the articles that are to be distributed manually according to size and amount, becomes disadvantageous. The solution according to the characterizing part of claim 1 creates a type of parallel physical connection between the dispensing areas.

Although the searched prior art discloses the linking of dispensing areas having parallel conveyor paths (cf. e.g.

document EP-A-1 151 942; figure 14), there is no suggestion of feeding said conveyor paths through a row of shelves in the dispensing area of the central conveyor belt that is parallel to said central conveyor belt.

There is no doubt as to the industrial applicability of the invention (PCT Article 33(4)).

The criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2) to (4) have therefore been fulfilled.